

REMARKS

No claims have been amended, added or cancelled. Therefore, claims 1-54 remain pending in the application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Section 112, Second Paragraph, Rejection:

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 21, 35 and 45 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

The Examiner contends that claims 1, 21, 35 and 45 are vague and indefinite “because it is unclear what are the preference values.” However, claims 1, 21, 35, and 45 refer to *configuring* preference values and do not recite any specific preference values. The particular preference values may reasonably vary from embodiment to embodiment. Moreover, the concept of preference values is easily understood by one of ordinary skill in the art. Applicants remind the Examiner that “breadth of a claim is not to be equated with indefiniteness.” M.P.E.P. § 2173.04; *In re Miller*, 441 F.2d 689, 169 USPQ 597 (CCPA 1971). Applicants also remind the Examiner that if the “scope of a claim would be reasonably ascertained by those skilled in the art, then the claim is not indefinite” (M.P.E.P. § 2173.05(e)). As anyone of ordinary skill in the art would be able to reasonably ascertain the scope of Applicants’ claims, Applicants assert that claims 1, 21, 35, and 45 are not indefinite and request removal of the § 112 rejection of these claims.

Section 102(e) Rejection:

The Examiner rejected claims 1-54 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Howard et al. (U.S. Patent 6,370,436) (hereinafter “Howard”). As set forth in more detail below, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection as to the currently pending claims.

Regarding claim 1, Applicants submit that Howard does not disclose “configuring preference values for one or more pluggable components on a first device and distributing the one or more pluggable components to one or more other devices via a network subsequent to said configuring.” Howard teaches a distributed object hierarchy in which some member components reside on a host computer and others reside on a remote computer. Howard’s system further includes exporting services from the remote to the host computer so that users may access services of the remote computer through the host computer. (Howard, Abstract, column 2, lines 25-37; lines 50-60; and column 5, lines 4-12).

The Examiner contends that the exported services information 44 of Howard corresponds to preference values, and that input/output devices 18, 20 of an embedded device 14 of Howard correspond to pluggable components on a first device. However, the exported services information 44 cited in Howard is a list of services at the host computer 12 that “indicates what services are available at the remote computer 16 and what data types, if any, are used with individual services.” (Howard, column 7, lines 55-57). This list of services is not a set of preference values that may be configured, but instead “substantially corresponds to the services table 32” retrieved from the embedded computer 16. (Howard, column 7, lines 51-54).

The Examiner refers to devices 18, 20 as the pluggable components for which preference values are configured under Howard. However, devices 18, 20 are input and output *devices*, such as sensors, switches, and lights, “capable of receiving and generating an electronic signal”. (Howard, column 4, lines 28-30). As such, they clearly cannot be distributed via a network subsequent to being configured since they are hardware devices already in place.

The Examiner’s additional argument that devices 18, 20 are examples “wherein the one or more pluggable components are executable within the one or more other devices in accordance with the configured preference values to provide services to the

users of the one or more other devices” is incorrect. Howard does not teach that devices 18, 20 are executable in accordance with any configured preference values, nor has the Examiner cited anything to indicate that they may be configured using the exported services information 44 at all. Additionally, as noted above, the exported services information 44 is not preference values for devices 18, 20. Howard does not describe any preference values according to which input and output devices may execute.

Applicants remind the Examiner that anticipation requires the presence in a single prior art reference disclosure of each and every limitation of the claimed invention, arranged as in the claim. M.P.E.P 2131; *Lindemann Maschinenfabrik GmbH v. American Hoist & Derrick Co.*, 221 USPQ 481, 485 (Fed. Cir. 1984). The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the claims. *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989). As discussed above, Howard fails to disclose configuring preference values for one or more pluggable components on a first device and distributing the one or more pluggable components to one or more other devices via a network subsequent to said configuring; wherein the one or more pluggable components are executable within the one or more other devices in accordance with the configured preference values to provide services to users of the one or more other devices. Therefore, Howard cannot be said to anticipate claim 1.

For at least the reasons above, the rejection of claim 1 is not supported by the prior art and removal thereof is respectfully requested. Similar remarks as discussed above in regard to claim 1 apply to claims 21, 35, and 45.

Regarding claim 2, Applicants submit that Howard does not teach “wherein said configuring preference values for one or more pluggable components on a first device comprises receiving user input to a graphical user interface of the first device.” The Examiner asserts that Howard’s “[o]bject loader 60 creates the device object 56.” However, Howard teaches only that a software object 56 is created by an object loader and that it includes exported services information and tables for all of the services that have been exported from the remote computer 16 and are available to the host computer

12 (Howard, column 9, line 45 – column 10, line10). Howard does not describe creating software object 56 as configuring preference values. Now does Howard teach that creating software object 56 includes receiving user input to a graphic user interface.

Additionally, Howard does not disclose “modifying the preference values of a first of the one or more pluggable components in accordance with the received user input.” The Examiner refers to item 76 of FIG. 5 that states, “modify embedded application.” However item 76 is one step of a method to *initially* implement the necessary components of code to set up remote computer 16 to communicate with host computer 12. (Howard, figure 5, column 13, lines 62-64). In this step, Howard teaches only that an embedded application may be modified “to interface and communicate with the software running or to be run on the host computer 12.” (Howard, column 14, lines 28-29). It does not indicate modifying preference values in accordance with receive user input and certainly does not teach anything regarding modifying preference values for devices 18, 20, which the Examiner equates to the pluggable components of Applicants’ claims.

For at least the reasons above, the rejection of claim 2 is not supported by the prior art and removal thereof is respectfully requested. Similar remarks as discussed above in regard to claim 2 apply to claims 23, 36, and 46.

Regarding claim 3, Howard does not teach “displaying on the graphical user interface a current value of each of the preference values of the first pluggable component, wherein the received user input changes one or more of the displayed current values.” The various software packages referred to in Howard and cited by the Examiner may be used to communicate, monitor, and control various functions of a networked computer system. (Howard, column 17, lines 1-12). Specifically, Howard is describe EMIT software that is “designed to move the majority of software off of the embedded microcontroller and distribute it to more capable computers over a network.” Howard does not teach that such software displays current values of preference values for pluggable components or that such software receives user input that changes the

displayed current values. Additionally, no mention is made in Howard of displaying current and changed preference values for devices 18, 20, which the Examiner equates to the pluggable components of Applicants' claims, using a graphical user interface.

For at least the reasons above, the rejection of claim 3 is not supported by the prior art and removal thereof is respectfully requested.

Regarding claim 4, Howard does not disclose validating the received user input prior to modifying the preference values. The Examiner cites Howard's Device Access Controller 46 and Device Access Server 50. However, Howard teaches that Device Access Controller 46 is used to request information and services from remote computer 16 and that Device Access Server 50 is used to service client requests for the services of remote computer 16 (Howard, column 15, lines 1-16 and column 8, lines 10-15). Neither Device Access Controller 46 nor Device Access Server 50 performs validation of user input prior to modifying preference values.

For at least the reasons above, the rejection of claim 4 is not supported by the prior art and removal thereof is respectfully requested. Similar remarks as discussed above in regard to claim 4 apply to claim 7.

Regarding claim 5, Howard does not teach "wherein said configuring preference values for one or more pluggable components on a first device comprises: receiving user input to a command line interface of the first device; and modifying the preference values of a first of the one or more pluggable components in accordance with the received user input." The Examiner cites Device Access Controller 46 and Device Access Server 50. However, neither Device Access Controller 46 nor Device Access Server 50 has anything to do with receiving user input to a command line interface. Instead, as noted previously, Device Access Controller 46 is used to request information and services from remote computer 16 and Device Access Server 50 is used to service client requests for the services of remote computer 16. Howard makes no mention of any command line

interface in conjunction with either Device Access Controller 46 or Device Access Server 50.

For at least the reasons above, the rejection of claim 5 is not supported by the prior art and removal thereof is respectfully requested. Similar remarks as discussed above in regard to claim 5 apply to claims 37 and 47.

Regarding claim 6, Howard does not teach “wherein the received user input specifies one or more of the preference values of the first pluggable component and a new value for each of the specified preference values.” The Examiner cites device object 66 that is a subclass from the base object 64. Howard teaches that device object 66 includes data and/or functions that are more specific and focused on a narrower set of remote computers 16 (Howard, column 12, line 60 – column 13, line 10). Information necessary to interface with these functions may be part of the exported services information 44. However, Howard does not teach that this information includes *received user inputs specifying preference values*. Furthermore, as is well understood in the art, existence of a subclass does not imply any received user input that specifies preference values, nor does it imply that it includes a new value for each of the specified preference values.

For at least the reasons above, the rejection of claim 6 is not supported by the prior art and removal thereof is respectfully requested.

Regarding claim 12, Howard does not teach “wherein said distributing comprises sending each of the plurality of pluggable components to the corresponding one of the plurality of devices via the network.” The Examiner cites the Abstract and column 1, lines 7-9 where Howard mentions that his invention relates to methods for distributing software and data across a computer network. The Examiner considers Howard’s devices 18, 20 as pluggable components. However, as described above regarding claim 1, devices 18, 20 are input and output *devices*, such as sensors, switches, and lights. Such hardware devices clearly may not be sent *via a network* as the examiner contends.

For at least the reasons above, the rejection of claim 12 is not supported by the prior art and removal thereof is respectfully requested. Similar remarks as discussed above in regard to claim 12 apply to claims 26, 40, and 50.

Furthermore, the rejection of claims 8-11, 15-20, 24-25, 29-34, 38-39, 42-44, 49, and 52-54 are improper because the Examiner has failed to provide any specific arguments or cite any portion of Howard supporting the rejection of these claims. Moreover, Howard fails to teach the limitations of these claims. For example, claim 9 recites "initializing each of the preference values of each of the one or more pluggable components to a default value for the preference value prior to said configuring." There is no mention in Howard of initializing preference values for devices 18, 20, which the Examiner equates to the pluggable components of Applicants' claims.

Applicants also assert that numerous ones of the dependent claims recite further distinctions over the cited art. However, since the rejection has been shown to be unsupported for the independent claims, a further discussion of the dependent claims is not necessary at this time.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Claims 13, 14, 27, 28, 41 and 51 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but otherwise allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants assert that claims 13, 14, 27, 28, 41 and 51 are allowable as depending from patentably distinct base claims. Applicants therefore respectfully request allowance of claims 13, 14, 27, 28, 41 and 51 as currently pending.

CONCLUSION

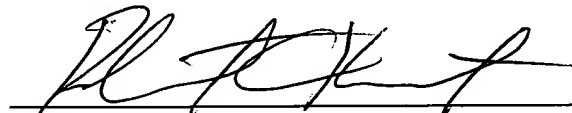
Applicants submit the application is in condition for allowance, and notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

If any extension of time (under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136) is necessary to prevent the above referenced application from becoming abandoned, Applicants hereby petition for such an extension. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5181-46501/RCK.

Also enclosed herewith are the following items:

- ☒ Return Receipt Postcard
- ☐ Petition for Extension of Time
- ☐ Notice of Change of Address
- ☐ Other:

Respectfully submitted,



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